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■ HOUSE APPROVES \$2 Million To HELP USDA FOREST PRODUCTS LAB CREATE A BIOMASS ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN PARK FALLS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that his request for \$2 million in federal funding to help the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory create a biomass energy demonstration project in Park Falls has been included in next year's interior appropriations bill which was approved by the House of Representatives last night.

“Finding a way to turn a single piece of wood into both energy and paper would be a boon for not only Wisconsin, but for the whole country,” said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. “So I’m glad I was able to secure these funds to help the Forest Products Lab work with Flambeau River to complete the engineering of an innovative process that will do just that; allowing mills to simultaneously produce pulp, ethanol, and heat energy from the same wood source.”

The Forest Products Lab, based in Madison, is one of the premiere government facilities working on how to use wood products more efficiently, as stronger construction materials, as paper-based products, and as biomass for energy.

The lab has completed small scale testing of a unique production line that breaks down wood into its distinct components to allow the production of both pulp and ethanol from every piece of wood. The lab will use the federal funds Obey secured to help construct a full scale demonstration of the production line at the Flambeau River mill in Park Falls to finalize engineering and fully test the process.

However, the bill must still be

approved by the Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law, but having these funds included in the House approved version means that a major hurdle has been cleared," Obey noted.

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